A LETTER

To the Right Honorable

A. Earl of Essex,

FROM

D[illegible]LIN.

[illegible] Obstinacy of

PA[illegible]STS,

(A[illegible]ELAND;

Who being evidently [illegible] and Condemn'd for [illegible] Causes, yet at their Death, and upon the Gallows, [illegible] deny the Fact; And the erroneous and impious Motives, given by their Priests, by which they are deluded to do it.

Joshua VII. xix, xx.

My Son, give glory to God, confess to him, and tell me what thou hast done.

And Achan *said, Indeed I have sinned,* &c.

LONDON,
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A LETTER

To the Right Honorable

A. EARL of *ESSEX*,

FROM

DUBLIN.

Declaring

The ſtrange Obſtinacy of *PAPISTS*, (as here, ſo) in *Ireland*, &c.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip,

IN Sunday laſt I received yours of *February* the 25th, and have inquired into the Truth of the Story of an *Iriſh Papiſt* Executed in this Countrey, who at the Gallows denied the Fact for which he was to ſuffer; but after he had Hanged awhile, the Rope by accident breaking, and the Malefactor coming to himſelf, confeſs'd it to be true.

The person was one *John Curphy* a *Papist*, who, this *Lent Assizes* will be Seven years, was Tryed before Mr. Baron *Hene* (then His Majesties Serjeant) for *Burglary* in the County of *Monaghan*, and being found Guilty, was condemned to dye. *At the Gallows this* Curphy *denied the Fact with great Confidance and Asseverations of his Innocency*, and was turned off the Ladder, *persisting in his denial*; but after he had hanged some little space, the Rope by chance breaking, and he falling down a little stunn'd, *came again to himself, and fell to his prayers, thanking God that he had given him time to declare the Truth, and not to go out of the World with a Lye in his mouth, and then confessed himself Guilty of the Fact for which he was Condemned.*

Afterwards this *Curphy* was brought back to the Gaol by the Sheriff Mr. *Lucas*, and application made to Baron *Hene* to Reprieve the Prisoner; but he telling the Sheriff that the Judge had done his duty, and the Sheriff must do his, *Curphy* was Executed.

This Account I write from Mr. Baron *Hene's* own mouth, this very morning, who perfectly knows this Narrative to be true, and was the Person who acquainted your Lordship with it, at your first coming into the Government.

He also tells me, that to the best of his remembrance, this *Curphy* owned, *That the Priest had given him Absolution, upon condition not to discover any thing, or declare his Accomplices: And that he need not doubt his Salvation, the Fact not being committed against Gods People*, meaning (as he supposed) *the Papists*, or to that effect. *Lucas* the then Sheriff, lives in *Monaghan*, and the Records of this Tryal are there, wherefore I have waited upon Mr. Justice *Johnson*, who goes that Circuit, and left with

him

him a Memorial of these Particulars, who will inquire into them, and give me an attested Account thereof, which when they come to my hands, I will transmit to your Lordship.

Mr. Justice *Johnson* also told me another Relation, something of this nature. There was a special Commission lately directed to himself, to try several Malefactors for Murthers and Robberies, committed in the County of *Cavan*. The Persons Indicted, were two of the *Duffies*, and one *Plunkett*, *all Irish Papists*. The *Duffies* when they were first apprehended, *Confest that they were Guilty of the Crimes laid to their Charge, and gave the same Evidence also against* Plunkett *at his Tryal*, upon which, with other *most undeniable Circumstances*, *Plunkett* was Condemned. The *Duffies* were afterwards tryed for the same Facts, and Condemned also.

I should likewise have told your Lordship, *That* Plunkett *upon his first Apprehension*, *owned to Sir* John Edgworth, *that he was Guilty*.

After the Sentence was past upon them, one *Brady* a *Priest*, came to these *Duffies* in Prison, and *used Arguments to induce them to Recant their Evidence*; but they persisting in the Truth, would not be prevailed upon.

Mr. Justice *Johnson* hearing this, sent for *Brady*, who, upon his Examination, *could not deny, but that he had been with the* Duffies, *to persuade them to Renounce their Testimony against* Plunkett.

Whereupon the Judge Committed him. The Conclusion was, That one of the *Duffies* (the other being Reprieved) suffer'd, confessing the Fact, and persevering in his Accusation of *Plunkett*. And *Plunkett dyed*

as

as obſtinate, on the other ſide, *utterly denying, that he was Guilty, with Curſes upon himſelf, and Renunciations of Salvation, if he were not innocent.*

I muſt alſo crave leave to trouble your Lordſhip with another Narrative of this ſort, which I had from Sir *Richard Reynell*, one of the Judges of the *Kings Bench.*

About *October* laſt was Twelvemonth, there was tryed before him, upon a Commiſſion of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, one *Neile-O-Neile*, an *Iriſh Papiſt*, *for a Murther committed* at *Rathdrum* in the County of *Wicklow.*

This *Neile-O-Neile* in Priſon, and at his Tryal, owned to ſeveral Perſons, (amongſt which I hear my Lord of *Strafford* then in *Ireland* was one) *That he was Guilty, and was ſo found by the Jury, the Fact being clearly proved againſt him:* But at the Gallows, *he utterly denied it.*

Theſe three Particulars being averr'd to me this very day, by the three aforementioned Judges, I humbly preſume to ſend them your Lordſhip as true.

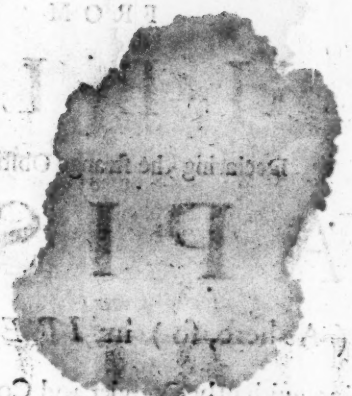
I fear I have tyred your Lordſhip with this long Letter, but I thought it my Duty to give you the fulleſt Account I could of your Commands: who am,

Your LORDSHIPS

Dublin, Mar. 5.
1675.

Moſt Obedient and Faithful Servant

Poſtſcript. It is thought reaſonable to ſuppreſs the Name of the Perſon that wrote this Letter, for fear of expoſing him to danger, from the Party concerned in the Information.



A Poſtſcript in the ſame Letter.

My Lord Chief Juſtice *Booth*, my Lord Chief Baron, and the Three Judges named in this Letter, all tell me, *That the Criminals that dye in the Romiſh Perſuaſion, although apprehended in the very Fact, yet never confeſs; for after they have had Abſolution from the Prieſt, the Crime is* (according to their Doctrine) *totally taken away; and it having, as it were, never been, they may with a ſafe Conſcience deny it.*

FINIS.